



NEWS RELEASE

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Newhall Couple Pleads in Case of Multiple Lewd Acts with Children

A man and woman who lived together in Newhall pleaded no contest today in a case where several children were sexually abused, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Julie Kramer said Francisco Avendaño, 42, entered no contest pleas to 12 counts of lewd act upon a child under 14, two counts of lewd act on a child 14 years old and one count each of lewd act upon a child 15 years old and continuous sexual abuse.

His live-in girlfriend, Jacqueline Wadsworth, 32, pleaded no contest to one count of lewd act upon a child under 13.

Both defendants in case PA086031 are scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 3 in Department I of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch.

Avendaño is expected to get a 49-year state prison sentence and Wadsworth is facing an undetermined amount of time in jail, probation and mandatory enrollment in a sexual compulsion program. Both will be required to register as sex offenders for the rest of their lives.

Beginning on January 2001 and continuing until December 2015, 10 children between the ages of 3 and 15 years old were victimized, the prosecutor said. The victims included family members, family friends and the children of friends of Avendaño, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Special Victims Bureau.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.